

Subject: Today's PUBLIC HEARING...

From: DearRoxanne <dearroxanne@me.com>

Date: 08/18/2016 11:15 AM

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Today's PUBLIC HEARING...

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PUBLIC HEARING...

Case No.: VTT-74103 & CPC-2016-1083-GPA-VZC-HD-DB-SPR-ENV-2015-1192-EIR
(EIR SCH No. 2015101001)

PUBLIC HEARING

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 17, 2016
11:00AM

Los Angeles City Hall
200 North Spring Street,
Room 1020
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Department of City Planning City of Los Angeles
Deputy Advisory Agency

ATTN: Luciralia Ibarra, Sergio Ibarra, Christina Toy-Lee

My name is Roxanne McBryde. I have lived on the Eastside of West Hollywood for 25 years. I was the Neighborhood Watch Captain for 15 years, and have written numerous letters to the city as well as having many meetings with the Sheriff's Department regarding this issue of the transients & homeless invading our neighborhoods for the past 3 years. However, it has escalated to the point in the last year that it is not safe. I know 4 women in the last year alone that have moved due to the confrontations of these transients while walking their dogs. There isn't a day that goes by that we as neighbors are telling another story of the boldness that these brazen people have regarding private property, loud intrusive, filthy, outrageous behavior. We don't live in peace over here on the Eastside that encompasses Formosa Avenue, Lexington, and Detroit Street.

Understandably, something needs to be done, but to open a place so close too residential neighborhoods is OUTRAGEOUS to say the least!
Of course, you do not live here so it DOES NOT affect you or anybody else on this email list!

I am against this. It should be opened further east and for you people to think in terms of sticking it right near a residential area, I ask you one question: WHY NOT PUT IT IN YOUR OWN BACKYARD?

I could go on and on with details, but I know to you it would be considered a lot of yammering at this point. All of the details are documented with the Public Safety Commission, Sheriff's Department of West Hollywood.

Roxanne McBryde
1221 N. Formosa Ave
West Hollywood

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

This is what I will say or would have said, if given the opportunity at tomorrow's hearing...

Hello.

My name is Jonathan Theriault. I've been a resident of Los Angeles my entire life, born and raised here. I live directly behind the current LGBT Youth center.

I stand here today in opposition to the proposed construction of the new Anita May Rosenstein Campus.

While the goals of the new center are certainly laudable, the fact that severe issues of crime and vagrancy surrounding the current LGBT Youth Center have no-where-near begun to be addressed, leaves us wondering how the crime situation could possibly improve.

As it stands, the current youth Center, a more modest facility by comparison, has been unable to or unwilling to devote sufficient security at it's end to curtail the unabated rise in crime in our area, much of it related to current or former patrons of the center.

Over the course of the last year, I and other residents have attended various community meetings to address the issues I have outlined. These meetings have included LAPD's Deputy Chief Girmala, former Neighborhood Prosecutor Jackie Lawson, the Senior Lead Officer for our immediate area Paul Jordan, Hollywood Division's Captain Cory Palka, LAPD's Vice division, and directors of the Los Angeles LGBT Youth Center.

My question is this: If all of these folks- with all of their power and position- have been unable to significantly resolve the problems which plague a community only blocks away from a police station, what hope have we that our situation could possibly improve with the arrival of a much more dominating presence represented by this new center.

Incidentally, claims by the LAPD that crime is actually "down in our area" is misleading at best.

What is "down" is the reporting of crime, either because

1) people have increasingly lost faith in the 911 and Non-Emergency Line systems after failed attempts or delayed responses,

2) overwhelmed and under-resourced, police apparently are being dispatched to only the most serious violent crime incidents, and

3) there are a host of crimes considered too minor or too time-consuming to report, the logic (we are told) being that the perpetrators of such crimes will just be returned to the streets without any prosecution whatsoever.

And therein lies the problem: a plethora of so-called petty crime unreported or underreported by LAPD, or unaddressed or ineffectually addressed by directors of the LGBT Youth Center.

There seems to be some confusion and misdirection by the LGBT youth center in claims that the majority of these issues and crimes we're experiencing is not directly related to their clients and patrons who seek services of the center, but instead stem from the nation-wide rise in homelessness and transients who frequent our city.

Yes, we do have a nation-wide pandemic of homelessness, however, the crimes we're experiencing involve a very young and diverse group of individuals who reside in the immediate area of the current LGBT Youth center, and have been seen going in and out of the center.

The crimes being committed include, but are not limited to, trespassing, prostitution, illicit drug & alcohol use, sexual acts, thefts, vehicle break-ins, harassment, and even violent altercations.

The LGBT Youth Center's Director, Simon Costello, has stated that when there are issues with individuals who won't comply with their rules, they are then either suspended or banned from the center. Others are aged out after the age of 24.

Over the last year, how many of these clients have been suspended, aged out, or banned from the center? How many of these clients were kicked out into our neighborhood streets for violent offenses? Does our local LAPD Hollywood Division become informed of them. Where do these clients go then? They go to the surrounding neighborhood near a preschool, private homes, and local businesses. The center doesn't take responsibility for them and have made statements that once banned from the center; it becomes the responsibility of LAPD and residents to deal with them if they cause any problems.

With the issues plaguing LAPD, there seems to be no resolve.

The current Youth Center is honestly, and unfortunately, the nexus of many of the issues our community is experiencing. Over the course of the last 4 community meetings hosted by the center in the past year, they have made several promises of having more security, an active outreach team to canvas the neighborhood for their clients and patrons, and a "hotline" for residents to call if any of us are experiencing any issues with patrons possibly from the center.

These promises have been broken and/or are not functioning properly. In the past, Simon has stated that the center is limited in funds for increased security and outreach staff, and cannot hire more than what they have now.

This isn't just another condominium or high-rise going up. This will be a huge establishment that will have a severe impact on our neighborhood.

How will the new center resolve issues involving patrons who seek services at the center who are either turned away or kicked out?

How can they assure the public that they will have an allotted amount in their budget to provide adequate security and take responsibility for their patrons if they can't do that now with their current smaller center due to "budget restraints?"

Will our already overburdened police department be able to address the likely increase in issues of crime and vagrancy, which they are even now ill equip to handle?

Thank you.

Jonathan Theriault
Phone: 818-421-4184